



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 1/20/1999

GAIN Report #YU9007

Yugoslavia

Agricultural Situation

Change in Labeling Regulation

1999

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Report Highlights:

**Imported food products must have labels in Serbian language as of January 3, 1999.
“Stickers” will no longer be allowed.**

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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Issue: Effective January 3, 1999, all imported food products are required to carry imprinted Serbian language labels while use of Serbian sticker labels will no longer be permitted. The requirement is mandated by the GOY's (the Government of Yugoslavia) regulation from December 4, 1998, (Official Gazette of F.R.Yugoslavia No. 59, 1998). The regulation allows use of both Serbian Latin and Cyrillic alphabets as well as use of bilingual (e.g., Serbian/English) labels. Although the label content may slightly vary depending on product specifications, the following general information should be printed in Serbian on the original product or packaging:

- Brand Name;
- Product Name;
- Ingredients, in descending order or proportion;
- Net content in metric units;
- Production and expiry dates;
- Country of origin;
- Importer's name and address.

The main objective of this regulation is to better protect domestic consumers against a widespread practice of selling imported products without any labels, and/or even the practice of selling products whose expiration dates had elapsed long time ago.

Comment: Surprisingly, the regulation has yielded very little reaction from domestic importers. This may indicate that most of the Yugoslav/Serbian imports are sourced from multinational food companies which are willing to carry out a costly product/package modification in order to accommodate the regulation. However, the regulation may negatively impact small to medium-size exporters whose export volumes do not justify an engagement in expensive products modification process.

Note: For reporting purposes, Yugoslavia includes the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro. The Republics of Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized by the United States.